(b) The average wholesale prices of onion during the last three years at the selected centres were as under :—

(Rupees per quintal)

	1989	1990	1991	1992 month ending June Prices
Delhi	175	284	306	200
Bombay	145	232	258	250
Calcutta	228	349	395	237
Madras	195	256	342	270
Nasik	105	198	246	175

(c) There is no glut of onion in the market at present and no shortfall in its exkort.

(d) Onion is covered under the market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to help the farmer's to realise remunerative price when market forces tend to rduce price below economic levels. The Government has considered proposals of respective State Governments and announced the scheme of Market Intervention and procurements of Onion where made during the years 1989, 1990 and 1992 during the glut period for giving economic prices to onion growers. Exports were maximised by maintaining the minimum export prices of Indian onion most competitive during these periods.

Drought affected States/District

2434. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States/District where drought conditions have prevailed during the last one year and where it amounts to a "Natural Calamity of unusual severity";

(b) whether Government have stopped giving money for drought conditions in Orissa and or to toher States ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of assistance rendered to each drought affected State during the same period ; and

(d) what are the views of the Ninth Finance Commission in this regard and the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) During 1991-92, the States of Gujrat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur and Rajasthan had reported drought conditions in varying degrees due to deficient rains during south-west monsoon 1991, north-east monsoon 1991 and winter 1992. The conditions prevailing in any part of the country were not of such dimension and severity as to warrant their handling at the national level.

(b) to (d) Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure adopted on the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, an annual Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs. 804 crores is available to all State Governments for incurring expenditure in the wake of natural calamities, including drought. 75% of the CRF is contributed by the Central Government in four equal quarterly instalments. The Central share of CRF released to these drought affected States during the year 1991-92 is given below :—

State	Rs. in crore
1. Gujarat . . .	63.75
2. Karnataka . .	20.25
3. Kerala . . .	23.25
4. Madhya Pradesh .	27.75
5. Maharashtra . .	33.00
6. Manipur . . .	0.75
7. Rajasthan . . .	93.00

The Ninth Finance Commission has also observed that if any region faced a calamity of such dimension and severity as to warrant its handling at the national level, the Central Government will take appropriate action as the situation demands and incur necessary expenditure.

Ban on Manufacture of Milk Products

2435. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the ban on manufacture and import of indigenous milk products is put every year for Delhi only causing great losses to milk producers in adjoining States ;

(b) whether it is a fact that during 1976-77 no such ban was imposed and milk supplies remained normal in Delhi ;

(c) whether it is a fact that all public sector dairy plants and co-operatives throughout the country have installed surplus milk drying capacity and they are forced to manufacture milk powder heven in summer creating milk shortage ; and

(d) what is the month-wise manufacture of milk powder by organised units, State-wise for the last three years, indicating the month-wise and year-wise installed capacity for all dairy products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A ban was imposed in Delhi in the year 1976 from 21-5-1976 to 21-7-1976. However, there was no such ban in the year 1977. Milk marketing by Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy, Delhi during 1976-77 was more than the year 1975-76.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Production of Pulses

2436. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULURE be pleased to state :

(v) whether Government are aware that India is today the largest importer of pulses in the World despite being he one of the largest producer of pulses in the world ;

(b) whether any time bound plan is in hand to overcome this situation through R and D ;